

October 9, 2011

Penny Woods, BLM Project Manager
PO Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

REC'D - BLM - NSO
9:00 OCT 14 2011
A.M.

Dear Ms. Woods,

As someone who treasures and spends time in the Great Basin and Snake Valley, I'm troubled by the severe and long-lasting impacts the BLM has identified in the Draft EIS for the Groundwater Development Project. The amount of water lost to people and wildlife is enormous and unprecedented for that region. I can't see any other outcome but the end of the ecosystems of eastern Nevada and nothing but hardship for its dwellers, both animal and human. I urge the BLM to stand up for the Great Basin by not granting a right of way for the pipeline. I urge the BLM to not abrogate its mission "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

The DEIS contains important weaknesses. For instance, the impact of water removal of the magnitude proposed in each of Alternatives A thru E has not been adequately addressed in the DEIS. I don't see a thorough disclosure of the project's full cost, including mitigation tactics and future monitoring. Most importantly, the DEIS suffers from tunnel vision: it only considers depleting another area's life-giving water supply and not actual alternatives to solve southern Nevada's water deficit. What about conservation or desalination? Where in the DEIS are existing surface and groundwater rights addressed in depth? The DEIS does not adequately cover these concerns and many others. It is too limited in scope to address a proposed project of this magnitude and consequences. I would like to see a Supplemental EIS, for instance, that speaks in depth to such concerns as impacts from the proposed well locations, the predicted massive land subsistence, and depopulation of rural areas.

This water-grab scheme by southern Nevada is irresponsible and self-centered. Why is a whole region (eastern Nevada) being asked to sacrifice itself for a settlement (Las Vegas) built in a naturally unsustainable location and operating on a model of unlimited growth? I support the No Action Alternative. This is the only choice that supports BLM's mission and its duties under NEPA and FLPMA. I trust that BLM will do the right thing as a Federal agency. I trust that BLM will not bow to an entity that is putting forth an irresponsible and expensive scheme. This is a scheme which will harm Federal Resources and Federal Water Rights. Please, do not grant the pipeline right of way. Save the Great Basin and wonderful Snake Valley!

Sincerely,



Cheryl Meyer
P.O. Box 594
North Bend, WA 98045